

# Exhibit D



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## Claims pending

- Cancelled claims: None.**

**Amended claims: Claim 26.**

**New claims: None.**

**Amended and Unchanged Existing Claims:**

Please amend claim 26 as indicated below (all currently pending claims are listed for the Office's convenience):

1. A hypermedia browser embodied on a computer-readable medium for execution on an information processing device having a limited display area, wherein the hypermedia browser has a content viewing area for viewing content and is configured to display a temporary graphic element over the content viewing area during times when the browser is loading content, wherein the temporary graphic element is positioned over the content viewing area to obstruct only part of the content in the content viewing area, wherein the temporary graphic element is not content.

2. A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the temporary graphic element is animated.

3. A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the hypermedia browser displays the temporary graphic element in a corner of the content viewing area.

4. A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the hypermedia browser presents the temporary graphic element within a temporary window in a windowing operating environment.

1           5.     A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
2           the temporary graphic element is animated; and  
3           the hypermedia browser presents the temporary graphic element within a  
4     temporary window in a windowing operating environment.

5  
6           6.     An information processing device comprising:  
7           a processor;  
8           a display;  
9           a hypermedia browser executing on the processor to load and display  
10    content in a content viewing area on the display;  
11        wherein the hypermedia browser displays a temporary graphic element over  
12    the content viewing area during times when the browser is loading visible content;  
13        wherein the temporary graphic element is positioned only over a portion of  
14    the content viewing area and obstructs only part of the visible content in the  
15    content viewing area; and  
16        wherein the temporary graphic element indicates to a user that the browser  
17    is loading content.

18  
19        7.     An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein the  
20    temporary graphic element is animated.

21  
22        8.     An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein the  
23    hypermedia browser displays the temporary graphic element in a corner of the  
24    content viewing area.  
25

1           9.     An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein the  
2     hypermedia browser displays the temporary graphic element within a temporary  
3     window in a windowing operating environment.

4  
5           10.    An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein:  
6           the temporary graphic element is animated; and  
7           the hypermedia browser displays the temporary graphic element within a  
8     temporary window in a windowing operating environment.

9  
10          11.    A method of browsing a hyperlink resource, comprising the  
11     following steps:

12           loading content from the hyperlink resource in response to user selection of  
13     hyperlinks contained in said content;

14           displaying the content in a content viewing area;

15           displaying a temporary graphic element over the content viewing area  
16     during the loading step, wherein the temporary graphic element obstructs only part  
17     of the content in the content viewing area;

18           wherein the loading, the content displaying, and the temporary graphic  
19     element displaying steps occur at least partially concurrently.

20  
21          12.    A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising an additional  
22     step of animating the temporary graphic element.

1        13. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the displaying step  
2 includes displaying the temporary graphic element in a corner of the content  
3 viewing area.

4  
5        14. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the displaying step  
6 includes displaying the temporary graphic element within a temporary window in a  
7 windowing operating environment.

8  
9        15. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising an additional  
10 step of animating the temporary graphic element, wherein the displaying step  
11 includes displaying the temporary graphic element within a temporary window in a  
12 windowing operating environment.

13  
14        16. A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions that are  
15 executable for performing the steps recited in claim 11.

16  
17        17. A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the browser is  
18 configured to display the temporary graphic element over the content viewing area  
19 only during times when the browser is loading visible content.

20  
21        18. A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the temporary  
22 graphic element indicates to a user that the browser is loading content.

23  
24  
25

1           19. A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the temporary  
2 graphic element disappears when the browser's loading of content is complete to  
3 indicate to a user that such loading of content is complete.

4           20. An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein the  
5 temporary graphic element is not content.  
6

7           21. An information processing device as recited in claim 6, wherein the  
8 temporary graphic element disappears when the browser's loading of content is  
9 complete to indicate to a user that such loading of content is complete.  
10

11           22. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the temporary graphic  
12 element is not content.

13           23. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the temporary graphic  
14 element indicates to a user that the loading step is being performed.  
15

16           24. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising removing the  
17 temporary graphic element once the loading step is complete to indicate to a user  
18 that the loading step is complete.  
19

20           25. A hypermedia browser as recited in claim 1, wherein the temporary  
21 graphic element conveys status information of the browser.  
22  
23  
24  
25

1           26. (Amended) A method of indicating a content "load status" of a  
2 hypermedia browser having a content viewing area for viewing content, the  
3 method comprising:

4           displaying loaded content within the content viewing area of a screen of a  
5 hypermedia browser, the screen [is] being without a "load status" graphic element,  
6 wherein a "load status" graphic element indicates a current content load status of  
7 the hypermedia browser;

8           receiving an instruction to load new content into the content viewing area;

9           loading such new content into the content viewing area; and

10          while loading, displaying a "load status" graphic element over the content  
11 viewing area so that the graphic element obstructs only part of the content in such  
12 content viewing area.

13  
14          27. A method as recited in claim 26 further comprising, upon completion  
15 of the loading, removing the "load status" graphic element to reveal the part of the  
16 content in the content viewing area that the graphic element obstructed when the  
17 element was displayed.



1           28. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
2 instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform a method of indicating a  
3 content "load status" of a hypermedia browser having a content viewing area for  
4 viewing content, the method comprising:

5           displaying loaded content within the content viewing area of a screen of a  
6 hypermedia browser, the screen is without a "load status" graphic element,  
7 wherein a "load status" graphic element indicates a current content load status of  
8 the hypermedia browser;

9           receiving an instruction to load new content into the content viewing area;

10          loading such new content into the content viewing area; and

11          while loading, displaying a "load status" graphic element over the content  
12 viewing area so that the graphic element obstructs only part of the content in such  
13 content viewing area.

14  
15          29. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 28 further having  
16 additional computer-executable instructions that perform a method comprising,  
17 upon completion of the loading, removing the "load status" graphic element to  
18 reveal the part of the content in the content viewing area that the graphic element  
19 obstructed when the element was displayed.

1           30. An information processing device comprising:  
2           a processor;  
3           a display;  
4           a hypermedia browser executing on the processor to load and display  
5 content in a content viewing area on the display;  
6           wherein the hypermedia browser is configured to operate in a content-  
7 loading mode and a content-loaded mode;  
8           in the content-loaded mode, the hypermedia browser displays loaded  
9 content in the content viewing area and no "load status" graphic element is  
10 displayed, wherein absence of such "load status" graphic element indicates that the  
11 browser is in the content-loaded mode;  
12           in the content-loading mode, the hypermedia browser loads content,  
13 displays such content in the content viewing area as it loads, and displays a "load  
14 status" graphic element over the content view area obstructing part of the content  
15 displayed in the content viewing area, wherein presence of such "load status"  
16 graphic element indicates that the browser is in the content-loading mode.

**REMARKS**

References herein to the Office Action (or simply the Action) are to the last Office Action, dated September 11, 2000, of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.08/851,877, filed 5/6/97.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims of the application. At the time of the Action, claims 1-30 were pending. After this response, claims 1-30 are still pending. Claim 26 is amended. No new claim is added.

Applicant expressly grants permission to the Office to re-interpret all pending claims of this application.

**Prior Art Status of References**

Applicant does not explicitly or implicitly admit that any reference is prior art. Nothing in this communication should be considered an acknowledgement, acceptance, or admission that any reference is considered prior art.

**Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103 -- Obviousness**

The Office rejects all claims under §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,760,771 to Blonder et al. ("Blonder"), U.S. Patent No. 5,973,692 to Knowlton et al. ("Knowlton"), U.S. Patent No. 5,983,005 to Monteiro et al. ("Monteiro"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,101,510 to Stone et al. ("Stone"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

***Prima facie* case is not established**

Applicant submits that the Office has failed to establish its *prima facie* case that claims 1-30 are unpatentable because they are obvious over a combination of

1 cited references. Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references  
2 produces combinations having all of the elements and features of claims 1-30.

3 Although some claims are worded differently from others (and may have  
4 different claimed elements and features), claims 1-30 recite a common core  
5 concept that does not appear in any of the cited references. The core concept is a  
6 non-content graphic element appearing over a content area that is indicative of  
7 present condition where content is being loaded into the content area.

8 Again, Applicant qualifies the statement of the core concept by noting that  
9 each claim is to read and interpreted on its own. The claims of this application may  
10 approach this core concept from different angles and color it with different hues.

11 For instance, claim 1 recites its view of the core concept this way:  
12 "...display a temporary graphic element over the content viewing area during times  
13 when the browser is loading content, wherein the temporary graphic element is  
14 positioned over the content viewing area to obstruct only part of the content in the  
15 content viewing area, wherein the temporary graphic element is not content." In  
16 this case, the display of the non-content graphic element coincides with the loading  
17 of content. Claim 18, which is dependent upon claim 1, further elaborates that the  
18 display of the non-content graphic element is indicative of the browser "...loading  
19 content."

20 In another instance, claim 26 recites its view of the core concept this way:  
21 "...wherein a 'load status' graphic element indicates a current content load status  
22 of the hypermedia browser..." and "...loading...new content into the content  
23 viewing area; and while loading, displaying a 'load status' graphic element over  
24 the content viewing area so that the graphic element obstructs only part of the  
25 content in such content viewing area..."

1 In previous Actions, the Office compares Blonder's content elements to  
2 non-content elements of the claims and Knowlton non-content elements to content  
3 elements of the claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that an agreed understanding  
4 of the term "content" will further our mutual goal, which is speedy completion of  
5 prosecution of this application. Applicant submits that those who are skilled in the  
6 art of hypermedia browsers and related fields intuitively understand the concept of  
7 "content."

8 Before the submission of Applicant's Preliminary Amendment dated July  
9 17, 2000, the Examiner and an attorney for the Applicant, Kasey Christie,  
10 discussed the meaning of "content" over the telephone. As a result of that  
11 discussion, the Office found and cited Monteiro—in particular, Fig. 19 of  
12 Monteiro. This figure illustrates traditional "pull-down" menus in a windowing  
13 environment, which may be displayed over the content of a hypermedia browser.  
14 Traditional "pull-down" menus are not content.

15 Applicant respectfully submits that the Office's reference to Fig. 19 of  
16 Monteiro in the Action seems to indicate an agreement regarding the meaning of  
17 "content" within the context of Applicant's application. However, instead of  
18 withdrawing Blonder and Knowlton, the Office maintains the same rejections  
19 based upon Blonder and Knowlton, but the Office now combines Stone and  
20 Monteiro with them.

21 Applicant submits that the cited references do not disclose what the Office  
22 says that they do. Applicant submits that the Office equates content in cited  
23 references to claimed non-content. In addition, Applicant submits that the Office  
24 equates non-content in cited references to claimed content.  
25

Furthermore, the Office supports rejections of claims 17-24 based upon their similarity of scope with rejected claims 1-16. However, Applicant submits that the wording and approach of claims 17-24 are different from claims 1-16. As such, Applicant submits that claims 17-24 should be examined independently of claims 1-16. Applicant respectfully submits that, with regard to claims 17-24, the Office has failed to establish its *prima facie* case because it has not examined these claims.

#### Claims 1-16

The Office equates claims sets 1-5, 6-10, and 11-15 to each other. Applicant respectfully submits that they are not equivalent. The independent claims (1, 6, and 11) of each set are different from each other.

#### Claim 1

The Office states that claim 1 is obvious because all of the claimed features and elements of claim are found in a combination of Blonder, Knowlton, Monteiro, and Stone.

Applicant submits that Office has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 1. The cited references do not include elements that the Office indicates that they do. Furthermore, the combination of the cited references does not include all of the claimed elements of claim 1.

The Office states that Blonder shows many of the features of claim 1. Applicant disagrees.

Blonder's Padding is Content. Claim 1 recites that the "...temporary graphic element is not content...." The Office equates Blonder's "padding" with

1 Applicant's "...temporary graphic element...." However, Applicant submits that  
 2 the "padding" is not equivalent because Blonder's *padding is content*. At col. 3,  
 3 lines 34-36, Blonder states that the padding "is predetermined content." Blonder  
 4 states that it's padding is content.

5 Knowlton. To support its proposition that Knowlton teaches the "limited  
 6 display area" and the "obstruct only part of the content" features, the Office cites  
 7 the Abstract of Knowlton; col. 26, lines 20-64, especially lines 60-64; and col. 42,  
 8 lines 30-34. However, Applicant submits that Knowlton does not teach either of  
 9 these features.

10 Limited Display Area. Applicant cannot find any language that teaches a  
 11 "limited display area" in the cited portions or, in fact, in any other portion of  
 12 Knowlton. Applicant did find several references within Knowlton that generally  
 13 refer to packing icons on a display. However, none of those references is to a  
 14 "limited display area." Instead, they appear to refer to any display. Specifically,  
 15 see col. 41, lines 34-46. Applicant does not find any reference to a "limited display  
 16 area" in Knowlton.

17 Indeed, Applicant found where Knowlton specifically refers to a "typical  
 18 display." In the "Background" section of Knowlton, it discusses the problem that  
 19 Knowlton is attempting to solve and its related technology. Knowlton expressly  
 20 refers to the problem of "displaying such graphical representations... on a *typical*  
 21 *display*" (col. 2, lines 18-23) (emphasis added).

22 Obstruct only part of the content. The Office focuses its attention on a block  
 23 labeled 210 and shown in Fig. 2A of Knowlton. This block is called the "original  
 24 image" within Knowlton.  
 25

1        It appears that the Office equates (or analogizes) Knowlton's "original  
 2 image" 210 to the claimed "content viewing area" of claim 1. Applicant submits  
 3 that the original image 210 of Knowlton is NOT equivalent (or analogous) to a  
 4 "content viewing area" as claimed in claim 1. Application provides two main  
 5 reasons.

6        First, claim 1 recites a "...content viewing area..." and not just a "viewing  
 7 area." The original image in Knowlton does not display content. It "displays"  
 8 nothing. It is an image. It is not a display, a window, a screen, or anything else  
 9 capable of displaying. Since it cannot display anything, it cannot be an area for  
 10 viewing content. The original image in Knowlton is something that is displayed  
 11 rather than something that displays.

12        Second, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office has misinterpreted  
 13 Knowlton (in particular, Fig. 2A). The graphic icon 144 of Knowlton is incapable  
 14 of "obstructing only part of the content in the content viewing area." It does not do  
 15 so for several reasons, for example:

- 16        • The original image 210 of Knowlton is not a "content viewing area";  
 17        therefore, if the graphic icon was covering the original image 210, it  
 18        is NOT "in the content viewing area" as recited by claim 1;
- 19        • The Office appears to imply the graphic icon 144 of Fig. 2A of  
 20        Knowlton is capable of being displayed over the original image. This  
 21        is not true. Instead, the graphic icon represents a portion that is cut  
 22        away from the original image. Notice the arrow points from the box  
 23        in the original image to the box labeled graphic icon 144. The icon  
 24        is taken from the original image. It is NOT displayed over the  
 25        image. Nowhere in Knowlton does it say that the graphic icon is



1 displayed over the original image. Instead, Knowlton says, for  
 2 example, "Graphic 44 Image 220 represents the region of Original  
 3 Image 210 that has been selected...for construction of the Graphic  
 4 Icon 144..." (col. 19, lines 39-41). Therefore, graphic icon 144  
 5 never "...obstruct[s any part of] the content..." as recited by claim 1.

6  
 7 Monteiro. Office refers to the "pull-down" menus of Monteiro to support its  
 8 position that claim 1 is obvious. However, these pull-down menus are not  
 9 "...configured to display a temporary graphic element over the content viewing  
 10 area during times when the browser is loading content..." as recited by claim 1.  
 11 Since they are pull-down menus, they will be displayed when directed to do so by a  
 12 user.

#### 13 Lack of Motivation

14 In addition, the Office failed to provide any evidence of a suggestion,  
 15 teaching, or motivation to combine Blonder, Knowlton, Monteiro, and Stone. The  
 16 Office has not shown any such evidence within the cited references. The Office  
 17 has not shown any such evidence outside of the cited references that one of  
 18 ordinary skill in the art (OOSA) would be motivated to combine the references in  
 19 the manner specified by the Office.

20 In the Action, the Office supports its obviousness determination for the  
 21 combination by stating multiple times that OOSA would be motivated for the  
 22 reasons "noted in the previous paragraphs." Specifically, this statement is made  
 23 three times.

24 The Office states that OOSA would be motivated for the reasons "noted in  
 25 the previous paragraphs" the very first time in the Action that the Office combines

1 elements found in the cited references. Specifically, that is when the Office  
2 combines pieces from Knowlton and Blonder at page 4, first full paragraph of the  
3 Action. However, no previous paragraphs exist to contain the referenced  
4 motivation.

5 Again, the same statement is made when the Office combines the  
6 combination of Knowlton and Blonder with a piece Stone at page 4, paragraph 4 of  
7 the Action. Yet again, the statement is made when the Office combines the  
8 combination of Knowlton, Blonder, and Stone with a piece of Monteiro at page 4,  
9 paragraph 2 in the Action.

10 However, Applicant cannot locate the referenced motivation anywhere in  
11 the Action. The Office never explains why OOSA would be motivated to combine  
12 the pieces found in each reference to form a combination as recited in claim 1.  
13 Applicant respectfully submits that no such motivation exists.

14  
15 Claim 6

16 This claim is directed to an information processing device. In addition to  
17 that difference, this claim differs from claim 1 in other ways. For example, claim  
18 6 recites, "visible content" and "the graphic element indicates to a user that the  
19 browser is loading content." These features are not found in any cited reference.

20  
21 Claim 11

22 This claim is directed to a method. In addition to that difference, this claim  
23 differs from claim 1 in other ways. For example, claim 11 recites, "displaying  
24 content in a content viewing area." This means that the content is visible. Like  
25 claim 6 above, this feature is not found in any cited reference.

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1 establish the obviousness of using a corner of a "...content viewing area..." to  
 2 display a "...temporary graphics element..." when "...loading content..."

3       Regardless whether it is well known or not, Applicant submits that it is not  
 4 generally known to place a graphic element in the corner of a "...content viewing  
 5 area..." instead of the corner of the *window*. This feature is illustrated at element  
 6 64 of Fig. 3 of the application. Note that element 64 is not part of the window  
 7 itself. Rather, it is over the content viewing area. There is nothing in the cited  
 8 references to suggest that a corner of a content viewing area should be used for a  
 9 graphics element such as the one claimed.

10       If the Office maintains its rejection of these claims, Applicant requests that  
 11 the Office explain how use of a corner of a window is equivalent to use of the  
 12 corner of a "...content viewing area..." as recited in these claims.

13       Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, and 15

14       Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, and 15 recite that the temporary graphic element is  
 15 presented "...within a temporary window in a windowing operating  
 16 environment...." Although the Office may have established the achievability of  
 17 this feature, it has not established any *suggestion or motivation for actually*  
 18 *implementing it*. There is no indication in the cited references that anyone has ever  
 19 considered using a "window" to display a graphics element such as this when  
 20 content is loading.

21       The Office specifically refers to icon 144 of Figure 2A of Knowlton.  
 22 Nowhere in Knowlton does it suggest that icon 144 be presented "...within a  
 23 temporary window...." See the above discussion of Knowlton with respect to  
 24 claim 1.  
 25

Claim 16

The Office states that computer readable storage medium is well known in the art of computers. This may or may not be true. Regardless, claim 16 is allowable because it is dependent from an allowable base claim, claim 11.

Claims 17-30

On page 6 of the Action, the Office states the following (and only the following) to support its obviousness rejection of claims 17-30:

"In regard to claims 17-24, these claims are of similar scope to claims 1-16. For the reasons stated in the rejections of claims 1-16, claims 17-24 are not patentable.

In regard to claims 25-30, such "load status" [handling] is taught by Stone (column 7, lines 6-14, i.e. "busy" signal to indicate loading)."

Claims 17-30 include elements that are different from claims 1-16 and/or include limitations that do not exist in claims 1-16.

Applicant submits that these two paragraphs fail to provide the requisite support for the Office's conclusion that claims 17-30 are unpatentable because of obviousness. Therefore, the Office has failed to establish its *prima facie* case that these claims are unpatentable.

Claims 17-24.

Despite the Office's statement that these claims are of "similar scope" to claims 1-16, Applicant submits that these claims are not. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that similarity of scope is not a valid ground for a rejection.

Claim 23. This claim is dependent from claim 11 and is similar to claim 18. This claim specifically recites, "the temporary graphic element indicates to a user that the loading step is being performed." None of the cited references contains this feature. In the Action, the Office did not address this.

Claim 24. This claim is dependent from claim 11 and is similar to claims 19 and 21. This claim specifically recites, "removing the temporary graphic element once the loading step is complete to indicate to a user that the loading step is complete." None of the cited references contains this feature. In the Action, the Office did not address this.

1        Claim 20 and 22. Claim 20 is dependent from claim 6 and claim 22 is  
 2 dependent from claim 11. Each claim recites the same feature. Specifically, they  
 3 recite, "the temporary graphic element is not content." This feature is included in  
 4 claim 1; therefore, the Action addressed this feature. See Applicant's comments  
 5 about this feature in its discussion of claim 1 above.

6  
 7        Claims 25-30.

8        These claims focus on the status of the browser, but they are worded  
 9 differently from claims 1-16. They include different elements and limitations.

10        The Office indicates that Stone supports its position that these claims are  
 11 obvious. Applicant respectfully submits that Stone does not provide the requisite  
 12 support. The "DownloadBegin" and "DownloadComplete" events described in the  
 13 cited portion of Stone are program-control events. These are used by application  
 14 programs to determine when to perform a programmed action. This is not a  
 15 displayed "load status" graphic element.

16        Stone says that it provides "...functionality of a web browser to application  
 17 programs" (col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 1); and "...programmers can  
 18 incorporate this control..." (col. 6, line 5). In col. 6, lines 45-50, Stone explains  
 19 the events listed in Table 2. Table 2 includes the "DownloadBegin" and  
 20 "DownloadComplete" events cited in the Action. Stone explains that these events  
 21 are notification messages to the control's programming interfaces.

22        Applicant submits that Stone does not disclose, suggest, teach, or motivate  
 23 one of ordinary skill in the art to display a "load status" of a browser is NOT  
 24 displayed by a graphic element.  
 25

1        Claim 25. This claim is dependent from claim 1. This claim specifically  
 2 recites, "the temporary graphic element conveys status information of the  
 3 browser." None of the cited references contains this feature.

4        Claims 26-30. Applicant submits that these claims are worded differently  
 5 and have a different scope of coverage than claims 1-24. However, the Action did  
 6 not provide any information regarding a thorough examination of these claims  
 7 independent from claims 1-24. Applicant formally requests an examination of  
 8 these claims, which is independent of an examination of claims 1-24.

9        Claims 26 and 28. These claims are independent. These claims describe a  
 10 method (or medium with instructions executing such a method) of indicating a  
 11 content "load status" that is not found in any of the cited references.

12        Claims 27 and 29. These claims are dependent from claims 26 and 28,  
 13 respectively. These claims describe an additional step to a method (or medium  
 14 with instruction executing such a method) of indicating a content "load status" that  
 15 is not found in any of the cited references. The step involves "removing the "load  
 16 status" graphic element to reveal the part of the content in the content viewing area  
 17 that the graphic element obstructed when the element was displayed."

18        Claim 30. This claim is independent. This claim describes a hypermedia  
 19 browser (of an information processing devices) that is configured to operating in  
 20 at least two modes: content-loading and content-loaded. The claim describes the  
 21 modes in detail. None of the cited references includes the features of this claim.

22        Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims in a condition  
 23 for allowance. Applicant asks the Office with withdraw its rejections and allow all  
 24 pending claims.  
 25



1 **Amendments to the Claims**

2 Applicant amends claim 26. The purpose of this amendment is to further  
3 clarify the invention. Applicant expressly grants permission to the Office to re-  
4 interpret all pending claims of this application.

5  
6 **Formal Request for an Interview**

7 Applicant expects the above comments to be persuasive. If not, however,  
8 Applicant formally requests a telephonic interview in order to discuss whether any  
9 further progress can be made towards allowance of this case. Thus, the  
10 undersigned would appreciate a telephone call before issuing a subsequent Action.

11 Please contact the undersigned to schedule a telephonic interview that is  
12 convenient to the Examiner. Applicant hopes that an oral discussion can help us  
13 achieve our common goal, which is speedy completion of prosecution of this  
14 application.

1 Conclusion

2 All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully  
3 requests consideration and prompt issuance of all claims of this application.  
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6 Respectfully Submitted,

7  
8 Dated: 12-1-00

9 By: 

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